United Nations E/2018/NGO/7

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Statement submitted by Fondation Ostad Elahi: éthique et solidarité humaine, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08678 (E) 310518 110618

Please recycle

Statement

In connection with Sustainable Development Goal 12, Fondation Osad Elahi, which has 10 years' experience of ethics education, particularly through Master's Degrees in Sustainable Development, emphasizes the importance of training business managers in the ethical aspects of their work.

In academic research, management ethics are increasingly recognized as a crucial factor in business sustainability, including the following three areas: economic development, respect for the environment and social aspects.

For example, whereas between 1980 and 1989 a search of the database Business Source Complete using the keywords "ethical management", "ethical leadership", "ethics of care" + "management", and "benevolent management" resulted in 198 hits from academic journals, there were 529 hits (+ 167%) between 1990 and 1999, 1,167 hits (+ 121%) between 2000 and 2009 and 1,719 hits (+ 47%) between 2010 and 2017.

Thirty years of research on human resources management show that ethical management (involving values such as kindness/appreciation of others, listening, open-mindedness, fairness, honesty, courage, etc.) has the effect of noticeably improving colleagues' individual performances (greater self-confidence, independence, sense of responsibility, loyalty, etc.) and collective performance (improved cooperation, less counter-productive behaviour such as absenteeism, better retention of information, etc.) and greater organizational citizenship (altruism, courtesy, conciliatory approach, etc.).

The organization therefore encourages scientific work dealing with the impact of ethical management on the sustainability of businesses and of their environment so as to contribute in an increased and more global way to a change of management spirit and methods.

This is why effective ethics training cannot simply emphasize rules and regulations. Experience has shown that these rarely have a real effect on behaviours and do not permit the development of ethical virtues, in which managers set an example.

One of the key aspects of management, on which academic training still places little emphasis, is how managers can identify in themselves a tendency to promote essentially individual or selfish interests to the detriment of the collective interest and how they can correct this tendency. If it is not overcome, it may gradually have unfortunate consequences and in the case of persons in positions of responsibility, such as managers of a business, have adverse systemic consequences and thus affect sustainability.

With this focus on self-knowledge and particularly awareness of one's tendency to promote individual or selfish interests and of how to overcome it, appropriate ethics teaching can foster the creation of sustainable production models. For this reason, the Fondation Ostad Elahi urges the members of the Economic and Social Council to encourage institutions in their countries to include ethics teaching in advanced management studies.

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Statement submitted by Fondation d'entreprise Sanofi espoir, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08683 (E) 110618

Please recycle

Statement

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action and provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at large.

A global approach allows for the objectives of every stakeholder's work to be aligned, providing some standardized and normative guidance based on the state of the art. Taking into account local specificities ensures efficiency and sustainability of actions.

Sanofi Espoir believes that combining global and local approaches is a key determinant of success for reaching the SDG. It is not a one-way road (from global to local) but a multi-way process (from global to local, from local to global and from local to local).

Our action in favor of the maternal and newborn health illustrates the synergies created by a multi-way approach.

Between 2010–2017, through the "Midwives for Life" initiative, Sanofi Espoir supported 35 projects in 24 countries. 3,77 million women were monitored, including 1,03 million pregnant women, 7,630 health workers were trained including 3,600 midwives. Among the supported projects, 25% were proposed or led by international organizations targeting capacity building of nurses or midwives. From our experience, projects led by global organization are aligned with international standards, but do not always integrate the local context. On the other side, local projects or community-based projects better integrate local needs and context but suffer from a lack of monitoring and evaluation.

In 2014, Sanofi Espoir launched the "Midwives for Life Awards" to reward initiatives carried out by local midwives in developing countries. Twenty awards were granted. Among the awardees, some led to the creation of mobile Apps for midwives and women, which are available in different languages allowing their use in different countries:

- "Universal Women" gives technology support and advice to midwives participating in multi-country twinning projects.
- "Happy Baby, Healthy Mom" provides nutritional advice for pregnant women to help them to avoid becoming overweight during pregnancy, as this can cause various health problems for them and their baby.
- "Twin to Twin", dedicated to twinning projects, provides a support network that empowers and strengthens midwives with a core value of reciprocity.

These mobile applications are free and can be downloaded using a smart phone. In the maternal and newborn context, the e-projects are not limited to improving access to knowledge and capacity of health professionals. They lead to a reduction of their isolation in the rural or remote areas.

Combining local and global expertise provides adequate support to empower local actors and ensure effective demonstration for sustainable development. In addition, dissemination of information about successful local initiatives and building upon these initiatives to scale them up is important. Starting from scratch when local pilots exist is not efficient.

The United Nations System is in a unique position to encourage, in accordance with SDG 17, not only partnerships from global to local but a multi-way approach (global to local, local to local, local to global), which will produce better and sustainable results for people everywhere.

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Statement submitted by Fundacja Instytut na rzecz Kultury Prawnej Ordo Iuris, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08685 (E) 110618

Please recycle

Statement

The Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture welcomes the opportunity to assist the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its preparations of the 2018 ECOSOC High-Level Segment.

Below, the Ordo Iuris presents the main issues related to the theme: From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities.

Supporting societies in urban and rural communities should be focused on the basic units of societies — on a family. Good condition of a family is a key to sustainable and resilient social and economic development. A family is a basic unit of society and natural environment for the growth of the human being. A family plays the most crucial roles in all societies such as: primary educator, social safer and economic driver.

Human mobility that is observed within countries often lead to greater urbanization and faster development of urban than rural communities. Urbanization is one of the main risks that affect a family by modifying structures and relations within a family. Effects of urbanization affect both cities' and villages' communities. Common problems faced by a family that are affected by urbanization are: long separation, the father's absence from the household and family break up. Inner migration to cities is often driven by the economic situation of a family. Economic benefits, although very important, cannot cover other potential risks related to family separation.

Therefore, the protection of the family is the main obligation of society and the State in order to create sustainable and resilient societies. The reason for such a protection is the fact that a family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children. This fact is acknowledged in most fundamental treaties such as UDHR (art. 16), ICCPR (at. 23), ICESCR (art. 10), CRC (Preamble), CRPD (Preamble), and CEDAW (art. 16). Only proper protection and assistance given to a family can ensure that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community, especially bringing up children in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding in the family environment.

First of all, urban and rural communities need to ensure basic needs of families to thrive, such as:

- Employment stability: stable employment and low labour taxation are the most important determinants of the development of a family;
- Housing for family: housing preferences for marriages and families with children allow family development and avoidance of long separation;
- Flexible forms of childcare: modern family policy should not unilaterally rely on the financing of institutional childcare facilities. Providing parents with a real choice regarding child care can guarantee a real sense of security of family;
- Family-friendly cities: human settlements planning should take into account family needs.

Only family-friendly urban and rural communities can lead to creating sustainable and resilient societies.

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Statement submitted by Help Me See, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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18-08687 (E) 120618

Please recycle

Statement

For effective eye-care service, there is a need to train 30,000 cataract specialists throughout the developing world to perform a quick (as little as 5 minutes), very low cost (less than $50) high-quality procedure which corrects cataract blindness and restores visual acuity lost to cataract disease. This will eliminate the disability cost by cataract blindness. In addition, the eye-care sector will contribute to the economy creating highly skilled jobs while reducing poverty and restoring the dignity for more than 20 million blind people.

There is no question about health disparities between rural and urban communities. In our capacity to provide safe cataract surgeries in both rural and urban areas, we have noticed that to support sustainability in rural communities, we must use technology, involve the government on a policy level, and local community for their understanding of local resiliency.

Therefore,

- To build sustainable, resilient and equal health communities in both rural and urban communities,
- Knowing that access to healthcare facilities in both rural and urban communities are essential to alleviating poverty,
- Reminding all member states, private partners and international bodies of the call to provide a universal health coverage to all, despite their geographical location, income, gender, etc....

1) we must discuss how policy makers on a country level can use integrated policy approaches to enhance resilience and inclusion as key enablers to achieve the 2030 Agenda at the national, regional and global levels;

2) this high-level meeting at the United Nations and everywhere must serve as a platform for exchange of best practices on how technology and innovation can be leveraged as tools to effectively design a resilient future, while leaving no person or location behind;

3) we must showcase policy instruments and mechanisms that support risk management and reduction across the hazard spectrum, including external shocks and natural disasters;

4) we must discuss how technology and innovation, particularly gender-sensitive solutions and internet-free, can support efforts to strengthen the resilience of public policy and governance structures through inclusiveness, participation and transparency with the view to fostering sustainable and resilient societies.

In conclusion, resilient societies are found everywhere. However, we must do our best to support efforts made in these communities. Active engagement of the civil society is necessary to mobilize public-private partnership financial and technical support needed to alleviate poverty by building sustainable and resilient communities.

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Statement submitted by International Alliance for Responsible Drinking, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08688 (E) 110618

Please recycle

Statement

The International Alliance for Responsible Drinking (IARD) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing harmful drinking and promoting responsible drinking, among those who choose to drink. IARD is supported by its Member Companies from all sectors of the alcohol industry — beer, wine, and spirits — in their common purpose of being part of the solution to the harmful use of alcohol. The 11 companies behind some of the world's most popular beer, wine and spirits brands collectively employ 480,000 people, work across 110 countries, and with millions of retailers, including in hospitality, tourism and leisure sectors.

We believe that a range of policy options and approaches are necessary to combat the harmful use of alcohol, according to each nations' context and priorities, and we are committed to creating new relationships and models of working that drive positive change throughout all our communities in order to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome policies that support economic growth and improve incomes and living conditions, resulting in improvements in health that in turn promote sustainable economic growth and enable a responsible and appropriately regulated business sector to thrive.

IARD fully supports the "whole of government, whole of society" approach to promoting economic and social development, including United Nations and WHO frameworks to tackle non-communicable disease and reduce the harmful use of alcohol. As many of these frameworks acknowledge, development of sustainable, resilient societies and a reduction in harmful drinking are best supported when private, public and not-for-profit organizations work together locally, nationally and globally.

To support these global frameworks, the world's leading alcohol producers have amplified their efforts to tackle the harmful use of alcohol by forging new partnerships across sectors, from governments and small retailers, to not-for-profits and others in the private sector. Through these partnerships, IARD members have reached more than 100 million people with educational messages focused on preventing underage drinking, established 330 campaigns to prevent drinking and driving across 88 countries, and demonstrated the important role of alcohol producers as effective partners in tackling harmful drinking, accelerating progress towards the United Nation's SDGs.

This year, IARD is working towards the publication of our Producers' Commitments 2018 Progress Report, including new responsible marketing standards for digital channels and a commitment to future actions to tackle alcohol misuse. We look forward to continuing to play an active and important role in this approach to support sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities, from global to local.

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Statement submitted by International Federation for Family Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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18-08689 (E) 130618

Please recycle

Statement

The current digital revolution has accelerated the evolution of communication systems, while fostering the development of new production and relationship schemes. Traditional technological scenarios face new challenges, and cities find a new basis for urban and territorial competitiveness. At the same time, it is the citizen who should have the power to establish these new scenarios, and that is why we need to study the way in which people interact with these new hyper-technified cities. The information and communication technologies that manage and transform the cities and territories of the 21st century must be able to be analyzed and ordered in an intelligent way, studying their impact on the new social behaviors that shape urban spaces and redefine the way to relate among people, their cities and their territories.

Much has been said, written, reflected on and disseminated nowadays regarding the relationship that the city has with new technologies. There are even labels that try to define this relationship using a term that already implies something more than what it had originally reserved for itself: 'Smart'. This word, which initially only admitted the meaning of intelligence or ability, is already used at the beginning of this new millennium as a pronoun linked to everything that uses new information and communication technologies, as well as information technology, even in the form of management of data in a massive way (Big-Data). Due to the growing impact of these systems in urban environments, the Smart City concept appears. Thus, when trying to deepen on what elements constitute a Smart City, the definitions are wide and varied, and rarely include the citizen and families in an inclusive and holistic manner, but as a mere 'empowered user' thanks to the new technologies available.

Historically, cities have been an immense laboratory for trial and error, failure and success for urban and social development, and for this reason policymakers would have to use this new social laboratory to learn, formulate and test sustainable development policies and strategies for all.

On the other hand, nowadays the global tends to make the local disappear, with cloned proposals that spread throughout the planet, understanding that none of these events occurs isolated from political, social, economic or technological reality. The question that currently arises in cities from the increasing weight and interaction that is generated from new technologies for citizenship will be: civilization or barbarism? We will have to discover how these new relationships are generated from new technologies and a new barbarism, defined by citizens who break with traditional systems to create new ways of relating, with their each others, their families and with their city. What instruments will be used to materialize these links, how will they become visible and, ultimately, how will the polis be transformed in which this new society manifests itself, which is no longer organized by hegemonic powers or by tangible infrastructures, but by a new organization between individuals who are related not so much by power, historical or territorial ties, but by new areas of interest, sometimes real, other virtual. Though above all things, we must prevent that this new era that begins does not generate social exclusion for those with more difficult access to these new technologies.

The impact of technologies has always been made more visible in the city either directly or indirectly, through citizens and their actions, or at least it has been until the end of the 20th century, since the technologies applied in urban environments always had a relatively immediate physical impact. Therefore, we must not forget that technology is part of the culture and is not part of our body, but projects our mental capacities, enabling the transformation of the material world that surrounds us. It has always been a complement and a projection of the human intellect and, therefore, has always been at the service of it.

Regardless of the name given to these new initiatives for the design of the city (smart, digital, sustainable...) it is imperative that the planning of urban and territorial environments can no longer be separated from the technologies that help to give them shape. But it must remember that cities belong to the people who inhabit them, who will end up validating any process of urban regeneration, whether based on technologies, systems or, simply, on common sense.

It can be said that this new digital revolution is already evident and therefore requires special attention, above all because of its implications for citizens and their families. Several authors (E. Soja; J. Brugman) pose it as an urban revolution similar to the industrial revolution, and this new one is the derivative of the new technologies that the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st brings; a new e-topia where traditional urban patterns can no longer coexist with cyberspace. Likewise, at present, the development of tele-technologies and information technology not only have an impact on the material urban space, but also on the immaterial, on the virtual spaces and on time, since the Internet allows relations beyond of temporality and local spaces, transforming the dimension of time in the city.

As a result of the increased migrations originated by the Industrial Revolution, the new generic and global city appears as an inevitable necessity, and we cannot deny the demographic growth that the population continues to experience, especially in developing countries. In spite of an apparent depersonalization and loss of identity of the city due to its enormous and incessant growth, new cities are also being generated, or new developments within existing ones, that pursue a solution to the problem.

New technologies can help new service sectors emerge, as well as old production centers are resized. While it has been moving from location in central urban areas to a more diffuse distribution in the territory, both the organization of production and consumption are no longer focused but constitute networks. The concept of centrality is abandoned as equivalent to production, asking for other services to the city, and its advantages are no longer measured only in terms of physical proximity, depending on the characteristics and peculiarities of each place in relation and competition with others at planetary scale. It appears to be area benefited by communication and telecommunication networks, which favors both the dispersion of activities and urban centrality.

This postindustrial, generic and global city also experienced the greatest development in terms of infrastructures, welcoming new technologies, overlaying the preexisting urban traces. Means of transportation, under or above ground, infrastructures that could be buried (drains), aerial (power lines), or travel invisibly (radio waves, television and cell phones) but also visible, because they require antennas, communication towers, command centers or data processing centers. Likewise, all these new infrastructures require new codes and forms of communication (urban signage, traffic lights) or exchange and parking centers.

Currently, the new information and communication technologies transform the post-industrial city into something new, where it is yet to be seen what its real impact will be on the city and its citizens. Despite this growing weight of technologies and the possible trivialization of urban spaces, an optimistic view is proposed for its resolution, since the tension between the global and the local will end up moving towards one or the other side depending on how it is managed, and this is what will end up characterizing its urban reality. The search for sustainable cities will require the construction of socially and culturally diverse urban spaces, as well as functionally complex ones where we can explore strategies and attitudes capable of escaping not only from banality, but from its most dangerous by-product, which is none other than social exclusion and the depersonalization of the individual.

A new project on inclusive cities

The International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), in partnership with the Regional Council of the Veneto Region, the Municipality of Marseille and the European Local Inclusion and Social Action Network (ELISAN) is promoting a new project on inclusive cities, with a family perspective to benefit each and every one of the members of the family. Within a family, all the social realities inhabited by cities and territories are welcomed, and so, a family approach will contribute to promote values of belonging and result in a greater attachment to the environment where it is inhabited.

In the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 11 ('Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'), and the New Urban Agenda, the 'Inclusive Cities for Sustainable Families' project is directed to cities and Regions that wish to actively contribute to goal SDG 11 to be inclusive of sustainable families by being responsive to their needs.

The commitment of their members will consist on presenting once a year a report about the results of their work on the following points:

1. Housing Cities design should include all family situations and social groups, flexible urban and environmentally sustainable planning, and social services to meet every need.

2. New technologies: The need of connecting people through new technologies should be also included to ensure social inclusion, to bridge the digital gap via training of seniors, professional careers and socially disadvantaged families.

3. Education Inclusive and quality education for all and promotion of lifelong learning (SDG 4) should lead to the improvement of accessible and affordable childcare facilities in locations close to the residence or workplace of parents, parenting education, participation of older persons in educational activities for the youth, intergenerational meeting places for cultural and leisure activities, youth integration practices as well as second chance schools and chances to reintegrate in society.

4. Healthcare Organization of campaigns to promote healthy habits and lifestyles, especially those targeted to prevent mental disorders and to meet the needs of senior citizens, setting the necessary structure to stimulate innovation and human relations in hospitals as well as medical attention of visitors and tourists.

5. Safety Creation of a welcoming environment in the streets based on solidarity, mutual support and social interaction, through instruments like promoting volunteers, a neighborhood police, the use of cameras and public lightning, information and training on how to behave in case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks, etc.

6. Clean air Creation of as many green areas as possible, tax benefits for garden buildings, progressive reduction of pollution produced by public transportation and increase of charging points for electric cars and support for circular economy.

7. Transportation Design of a plan to make public transportation more rational and accessible, dissuade citizens to use private cars, and to take advantage of teleworking.

8. Affordability Plan to facilitate access to housing for the most disadvantaged citizens, including promotion of smart cohousing solutions for different target groups with common use of services, efficient energy saving and flexible buildings, and intergenerational arrangements to provide care for the elder and cheaper housing for the younger.

9. Leisure and tourism: Foster of active engagement in the volunteering sector to conserve and restore the cultural and touristic of the city, as well as tools to facilitate

access to cultural activities for all through special prices and ad hoc exhibitions and locations for museums, theatres, etc.

10. Vulnerable families: Establish specific programs to recognize the value of unpaid work and care, and address the needs of families in vulnerable situations, including single parent families, large families, migrant families, etc.

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Statement submitted by International Shinto Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08692 (E) 130618

Please recycle

Statement

The financial crisis in 2008 revealed that if something bad happens somewhere in the world, it may cause a contagion effect which impacts the rest. While great merits can be reaped through involvement in the global economy during boom times; in times of economic emergency, greater damages can be sustained.

A new movement has arisen calling for greater autonomy for local regions to protect them from the threat of external factors and circumstances sourced from every corner of the world. In Japan, most local regions remain in budgetary deficit. This means municipalities in Japan spend more on goods and services from outside their region than generating income by selling to their external partners, which seriously weakens their economies.

What would be the requirements for a region to lay roots of a resilient economy if there is no longer access to cheap petroleum since the Paris Convention, no subsidies from central government, or incentives for companies? The problem does not seem to be low regional incomes, but rather the leakage of this income to outside the locality. Efforts to minimize such leakage and to successfully circulate the region's money so that it is retained within its borders will lead to increased financial reserves in the area and will serve to animate local economies and raise the happiness of their people.

In pursuit of this end, it would be crucial to review what kind of resources are available in the region and to find the best way to make the most of these resources. In particular, whether residents' capital will be invested in their region or outside would be of critical importance. For example, if residents' monies are saved in a bank, then it will usually be pooled to a central bank in an urban area for investment. The funds are scarcely used for investment in the region of its source. But if such monies are invested in the local economy, it serves to invigorate the area, while the investor could enjoy an interest or return similar or higher to that when saved through a major bank. For example, Aba Village in Okayama Prefecture in western Japan had been dwindling to a ghost town — on account of a zero birth rate over the past 20 years which saw the population decrease from 700 to 570, the only elementary school and kindergarten close, the only gas station withdrawn by its managing company, and the municipal office branch drastically diminish in size. Under such despairing circumstances, the residents tried to do their best to preserve their village home. Almost all of them joined together to establish a private limited liability company, which started growing eco-friendly rice and vegetables for local consumption. Their success allowed them to revive the once-closed gas station and they began using thinned woods for fuel. Through these endeavors, they were able to turn around their region's finances so that after several years (and to this present day) the area attracts number of cooperators and immigrants from outside the region.

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Statement submitted by Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08693 (E) 130618

Please recycle

Statement

Since the urban population reached half of the world's population in 2009, the world has witnessed more than 20 mega-cities with over 10 million people. By 2040, 20 more mega-cities are expected to grow in Asia alone.

However, such large urbanization poses many problems. Excessive population growth in cities without adequate infrastructure creates environmental disasters and energy shortages. In particular, global warming and particulate matter issues of mega-cities are highly serious and have a great impact on people's health.

Seoul, one of the leading mega-cities in Asia, is responding quickly to these problems. Seoul Metropolitan Government promotes electric cars to build an eco-friendly city, planning to install 200 mobile electric car chargers throughout the city by 2018. Electricity taxis, buses, motorcycles, as well as "share-cars" are also expanding. More than one million citizens are currently using share-cars in Seoul, having the effect of replacing 8.5 cars per car and reducing 486 tons of greenhouse gases per year.

Seoul's Energy Independence policy is world-class. "One Less Nuclear Power Plant" was introduced at the 21st General Assembly Action Day of the UNFCCC in 2015. Seoul also created the Seoul Energy Fund for circulation and sharing of energy. Furthermore, the "Energy Self-Sufficient Village Project" supports neighborhoods where residents themselves recognize the problem of energy crisis and aim for energy independence. These 55 established villages are implementing energy independence through installing solar energy generators, etc.

In addition, Seoul is pushing forward an urban regeneration project, designating 133 locations within the city. By 2025, it aims to revitalize the city through harmonizing four goals: job creation, safe residential environment, decentralization, and sustainable future. Moreover, the city is also constructing a thousand forests and a thousand gardens. Currently, 1,010 forests and 1,094 gardens with a total of 10 million trees have been formed.

Even in the field of water re-use, Seoul is building a world-class water purification system through the development of advanced technology and effective policy management. It puts the existing massive on-ground water recycling centers underground while transforming the surface into green fields, and sells bio-gas generated during sewage treatment as eco-friendly fuel. This Tomorrow Water Process (TWP) was introduced at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016.

To conclude, Seoul has actively implemented eco-friendly policies since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations in 2015. As a leading economic and cultural hub of Asia, these actions and policies of Seoul will have a great influence on neighboring regions. Seoul even takes the role of international leader of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to create a model that is applicable to other cities and even rural areas. With the Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals for the United Nations planning to support Seoul with its various international partnerships, the city can further complement and develop its activities locally and globally. Therefore, Seoul will spread its efforts on sustainability not only as a mega-city, but as a city that can help the overall global and local community.

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Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

We, from the Legião da Boa Vontade/Legion of Good Will (LGW), recognize that to make societies sustainable and resilient — as proposed by the 2018 session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment — the following topics need to be urgently prioritized: (a) education for sustainability and for global citizenship; and (b) increase participatory mechanisms in public issues, as established by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, particularly in the target 11.3: "By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries."

It is expected that by 2050 more than two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. On their own, the more than 90 megacities that make up the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group account for a quarter of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is imperative to ensure their commitment to the promotion of sustainable development. That is why we carry out in 7 cities in Brazil the Solidary Society Network program. It provides assistance and advocates for people's rights supporting 436 organizations and civil society actors so that they may contribute through institutional channels with public officials for improving city policies of social advancement and sustainability.

It is essential to recognize in the long term the vital connection between SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15 — focus of this year's session — and SDG 4, particularly target 4.7, which states: "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."

To this end, United Nations Member States, and local governments that are committed to sustainability should prioritize the adoption of mechanisms that allow the approach to SDG-related content to be measured and encouraged in their national educational systems. These subjects could be categorized in accordance with the 17 SDGs in order to foster compliance with the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

All 95 LGW educational and social assistance centers across Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, the United States, and Portugal, have set out actions that contribute to the SDGs and impacted more than 600,000 people in 2017.

Through an internal information platform, we have promoted an exchange of experiences between these centers and a great effort is made to systematize best practices and improve the organization's efficiency and effectiveness. In order to improve LGW's sustainability policies in 2017 our sustainability team (ECOTEAM) engaged volunteer specialists and employees from a wide variety of backgrounds, from the operational level to the executive board, in participative management processes.

The data collected by ECOTEAM identified that in 2017, more than 60% percent of the organization's centers carried out projects that addressed SDGs 11, 12, and 15, which are being discussed at this conference. These social and educational activities for people of all ages accounted for 985 hours. The team also monitors the indicators related to SDGs 6 and 7, which deal with the consumption of natural resources, waste management, the conservation of green areas, and the human development of its employees.

We also believe that the mass media plays a key role in education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles. That is why we produce the Biosfera TV show, which gives voice to activists, researchers, and organizations working on behalf of sustainability. This theme is also addressed transversally in all the content produced by our other media platforms, reaching the widest possible audience.

The Super Good Will Communications Network in Brazil directly reaches more than 35 million individuals through radio, more than 18 million on open TV and more than 11 million households by cable. The contents are also available on several online platforms, among them the main social media and an app for smartphones and tablets.

Thus, we foster the sustainable awareness of our employees by way of the ECOTEAM, of the general population through radio, TV, and the Internet, and of those who attend our schools, homes for the elderly, and social service centers, which annually provide more than 13 million services and benefits to underprivileged communities.

In addition to investing in new technologies that reduce the environmental impacts of human activity, we need to call for change in patterns of consumption and behavior. For this reason, we point out a warning given by Marie Curie (1867–1934), quoted by our President, educator José de Paiva Netto, in the Legion of Good Will's message to the participants of the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women:

"The notable Polish scientist — the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and the only person to win it in different scientific fields (Nobel Prize in Physics 1903 and in Chemistry 1911) — was recognized not only for her efforts and countless sacrifices in favor of scientific progress, through the pioneering research into radioactivity that cost her own life…

"From the height of her perseverance and humanitarian spirit, this brilliant woman — from whose breakthroughs resulted significant technologies for the field of Medicine — concluded:

"'You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all Humanity…'

"With the educational power of women and mothers, let us use the technological resources available and those that are yet to be created by human audacity to persevere working on the path to Peace and Justice.

"In my book Reflexões da Alma [Reflections of the Soul] (2003), I stated that if we continue fighting for the Good, there will come a day when weapons will finally have their sinister voices silenced. In this millennium, which I consider to be the millennium of women — even though it may take time — human beings will understand that the essence of power does not selfishly lie in them, but in the spirit of Solidarity, which must unite all. There is still a lot to be done. Future generations expect bolder attitudes from all of us. If this is a difficult undertaking, let us begin yesterday!"

To promote the enhancement of current and future generations, however, it is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of our education, whether it is at schools or not. For this reason, we apply the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, which provide an education with spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values. They comprise a pioneering educational line created by Paiva Netto, which introduces significant curricular and methodological innovations and have been analysed in academia and congresses in Brazil and abroad.

The outcomes of this modern teaching proposal can be measured by the greater engagement of the families we assist in the development of their own communities, by the improvement of the academic performance of the students, and by the increase in the income of the families, even in situation of extreme vulnerability.

In our schools, we developed contents aligned with the mandatory curriculum for each age group, whose objective is to guarantee that all students have the necessary experience to prepare them to exercise their global citizenship. "Ecumenical Citizens are solidary and therefore not selfish. They are the ones who do not allow themselves to be seduced by fanaticism, because they understand that it makes no sense hating in the name of God, who is Love. In short, they know how to respect the sacred human creatures without prejudice and sectarianism. What is ethical cannot become intimidated," explains the creator of the aforementioned teaching proposal.

Regarding our methodology, we establish connections between the syllabus and these experiences. To do so each subject is worked on in six stages that complement each other. The student is the protagonist in them and counts on the supervision and mediation of a teacher. The stages are: "Content identification," "Individual search for knowledge," "Sharing and systematization of knowledge," "Collective production," "Results presentation," and "Individual conclusion." On our website (https://www.lgw.org/social-inclusion-through-quality-education), we publish additional information about our teaching proposal and about the Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research (MAPREI).

In the collective production stage, concrete actions are being undertaken to achieve SDG 15, such as planting seedlings and seed bombing — that are being planned for six municipalities. Among these municipalities are Mogi das Cruzes, which is part of the "green belt" around the city of São Paulo, located in southeast Brazil. This "green belt" is a sensitive region dedicated to protecting springs and where family farming is responsible for supplying food to the largest Brazilian metropolis (São Paulo) and other important cities in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Another example is the municipality of Nova Friburgo, in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro. The city was one of the worst affected by Brazil's worst climate disaster: in 2011, floods and landslides caused more than 900 deaths and hundreds of people went missing. The heavy rain and the irregular occupation of conservation areas were indicated as some of the causes of the tragedy.

Several cities in Brazil are to hold workshops on how to take full advantage of the food (in view of the fact that Brazil is among the top ten food-wasting countries), on how to reuse solid waste and dispose of hazardous waste properly. These actions are crucial in Brazil, which, according to the latest available survey, collected 91 percent of all urban waste, but sent almost half of it to inappropriate landfills and dumps, thus endangering the health of the population and the conservation of the environment. The data were taken from the 2016 Panorama of Solid Waste in Brazil report.

The LGW organized educational visits to parks and conservation areas in dozens of cities, such as Paranaíba, located in the Pantanal biome, and João Pessoa, where the challenge is to conserve the mangrove swamps. In Campinas, participants in the Youth: the Future in the Present! program went to a water treatment plant, where they learned about the challenges of water management in São Paulo, the most populous state in the country, with more than 45 million inhabitants. If it were a country, it would have the fifth largest population on the American continent.

In the United States, the Good Will Students for Peace program has engaged children and adolescents in public schools in extracurricular sustainability projects, which encourage the adoption of a healthy lifestyle, prevent violence, and help promote a Culture of Peace. A survey carried out with teachers and the students showed that those taking part in the program improved their school performance and had their self-esteem raised.

The commitment to education for Ecumenical Citizenship, or global citizenship, is for us, from the Legion of Good Will, the most important tool for building sustainable and resilient societies. Therefore, we emphasize that SDG 4, especially target 4.7, should play a central role in national strategies aimed at achieving SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15. As educator Paiva Netto states, "To educate with Ecumenical Spirituality is to transform — and let it naturally be for the better. If the human being is transformed, the planet will be restored."

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Statement submitted by Roshd Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08698 (E) 140618

Please recycle

Statement

"From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities"

Achieving sustainable development in human societies requires participation of all people around the world. Non-governmental organizations, governments and the United Nations should be unified to find appropriate and practicable strategies and action plans to make a resilient human society. The Sustainable Development Goals which have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 are a good example for this issue.

Surely, the first step for making a sustainable society is the recognition of abilities and potentials of each community to make future plans for brighter horizons. In fact, providing the opportunity of participation of indigenous people in the decisions and local affairs creates flexibility in that society. Furthermore, sustainability needs continuous education and improvement in the technologies.

Therefore, development of new technologies and Internet access should be considered significant criteria in achieving a sustainable society. NGOs, governments and the United Nations should provide an instruction or a platform which gives the possibility of transferring new sciences and practical approaches such as modern irrigation systems in agriculture, especially for deprived areas. Technology has the capacity to help people with becoming trained in new skills which are useful for their jobs which can reduce costs and increase production.

In the meanwhile, online education influences the process of sustainable development in deprived areas and creates the opportunity for NGOs and governments to move beyond executive restrictions and bureaucracy in order to provide education for all. The benefits of technology were demonstrated when Roshd Charity provided online educational classes for high school girl students in the deprived villages of Sistan and Balouchestan Provinces of Iran. Also, Roshd Charity Foundation has aimed to reduce social anomalies and poverty by helping to develop and preserve indigenous and local businesses. Holding tailoring and handicrafts workshops for women in the deprived areas are good examples of activities conducted by Roshd Foundation.

Moreover, various countries with preserving historical, cultural and traditional values of their society, can interact with other communities. In fact, tourism industry as a key factor for better recognition of potentials of societies, allows both the tourists and the local community a chance to experience other cultures, which broadens understanding. The main benefits of tourism are income creation and generation of sustainable jobs. In many places the introduction and development of tourism allows local people an opportunity for economic and educational growth that would not otherwise be available.

In addition, regarding SDG 17, global partnership for sustainable development has been noticeably underlined by the United Nations. However, local events held jointly by governments and the United Nations should engage local communities more. Furthermore, it seems that providing a complementary online interactive system that can increase the engagement of NGOs around the world is necessary.

Finally, achieving sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities is accessible by providing online communication for education and holding joint projects around the world.

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Statement submitted by Utah China Friendship Improvement Sharing Hands Development and Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

Mountain communities around the world are disproportionately affected by the challenges of globalization. They live in harsh conditions in remote areas, often at high altitudes. These factors, combined with weak access to infrastructure, as well as social, economic and political marginalization result in high levels of poverty in many mountain areas. Emerging problems such as climate change, desertification and migration are aggravating this situation. National governments and the international community can and should do more to support these communities that also are the environmental stewards of mountain regions rich in natural resources including the sources for much of the freshwater upon which humanity depends.

An estimated 39 percent of the mountain population in developing countries, some 329 million people, are considered vulnerable to food insecurity, according to a recent study of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Furthermore, the study revealed a 30 percent increase in the number of mountain people vulnerable to food insecurity from 2000 to 2012. This study was led by the Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership which is an alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. On behalf of the mountain communities, we must ensure availability of basic amenities such as food, water, a healthy environment, reliable electricity, and sanitation.

This High Level Political Forum provides an opportunity to address the challenges facing mountain communities to transform them into more sustainable and resilient societies and to bring them to the center of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Two sustainable development goals under the review of this forum contain three mountain targets: Target 6.6: by 2020, protect and restore water related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes; Target 15.1: by 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements; Target 15.4: by 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

We would like to report about collaborative experiences with Utah Valley University, a Mountain Partnership member since 2006, as one of the examples to transform mountain communities towards sustainable and resilient societies. Since joining the Mountain Partnership, the university encourages faculty and students to contribute to the sustainable mountain development agenda of the United Nations in the State of Utah, North America, and in developing countries globally. It allowed the university also to implement the mountain targets under the Sustainable Development Goal 4.7, which states that "By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."

Utah Valley University is the largest university in mountainous Utah, a state with one of the most successful models of economic development in the United States. While the United Nations encourages youth in promoting and implementing the sustainable development goals, Utah Valley University provided opportunities for inclusive involvement across campus for students, especially non-traditional, in activities related to the United Nations. Non-traditional students are described as

individuals who may have delayed enrolment into postsecondary education, attended university part-time, work full time, are financially independent, have children or dependents other than a spouse, or are single parents. These students represent more than 30% of college students within the United States. Most of them also possess a diverse set of professional skills and experiences, which they are ready, and eager to contribute to the benefit of the communities in which they reside — mountainous communities in particular. Through the developed model, Utah Valley University sources the wealth of experiences, knowledge, and financial contributions, from students to tackle environmental and social issues.

Under the engaged learning model, students gain professional skills, experiences, and proper recognition by addressing real-world sustainability problems of mountain communities at local, regional, and global levels with an instructor serving them as a mentor. The model represents a co-curricular pedagogy with the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at university that functions as a major vehicle for student group learning and implementation of the United Nations agenda that focuses on mountain targets. Creation of a coalition of clubs provides students more choices to select a club based on professional interest and to implement several initiatives in parallel.

Most recently, the members of the Foreign Affairs club and the leadership of the Utah International Mountain Forum, through engaged learning model, advocated for the sustainability of mountain women and communities at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women. During the two-year preparation, students raised funds for the visit, arranged logistics and protocol, and built ties with experts from the United Nations, representatives of diplomatic missions from mountain states accredited to the United Nations, and non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, including three of our institutions. As a result, eleven Utah Valley University students, co-hosted a side-event titled, "Advocating for rural and mountain women globally through student engaged learning" on 19 March 2018, and a parallel event titled, "Education for sustainable development to empower rural and mountain women" on 20 March 2018. During both events, they reported on the advocacy of the mountain women since 2007, when Utah Valley University hosted the first international Women of the Mountains conference under the umbrella of the Mountain Partnership. The university hosts conferences as an implementation of the United Nations Resolution "International Year of Mountains, 2002" and a major contribution to the promotion of the gender as part of the sustainable mountain development agenda in the State of Utah and North America. The fourth and most recent international Women of the Mountains conference was hosted in Utah on 7-9 October 2015 by the club coalition Utah International Mountain Forum as a student engaged learning initiative. Members of the coalition, the majority of whom were non-traditional students, raised funds to host the event and brought to Utah diplomats, experts, and women from the mountain regions of the United States as well as from more than 20 mountain nations worldwide.

During the same time, members of the Sustainable Mountain Development club, which is also a part of the coalition, addressed the problems of a climate change and air quality in the state of Utah. Today those issues represent some of the biggest challenges for the Rocky Mountain region and Utah communities as well. According to a 2007 report by the International Panel on Climate Change, sections 4.4 and 15.2, higher elevations of the Northern Rockies have experienced three times the global average temperature increase over the past century and these very same ecosystems provide up to 85 percent of water sources for both human consumption, and fauna and flora of various ecosystems of the region. Within the Intermountain Region that comprises the state of Utah, local livelihoods experienced far more challenging

transition than other areas of the continental United States. Utah Valley University is located in a valley surrounded by mountains that rise nearly 7,000 feet above the valley in a relatively condensed area. This makes the entire region very susceptible to environmental degradation.

On 30 January 2018, the Faculty Senate for Utah Valley University passed a resolution with a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2050 and administration is committing to hire its first sustainability coordinator arriving in Spring 2019. Those initiatives are in line with the previous activities of students on climate change in particular initiated by the Mountain Partnership. As one of the highlights, students gathered signatures under the petition to discuss the impact of climate change on mountain communities in the agenda of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 21, in Paris, France, 30 November–12 December 2015. At that time, students collected more than 1,800 signatures in support of the petition of the 5,000 required by the United Nations.

The State of Utah suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation and over the past 10 years has consistently received "F" and "D" rankings from the American Lung Association. According to their 2016 report, the Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem metro area and Logan registered the sixth and fifth-most unhealthy air days from 2012–2014 respectively. Members of the Sustainable Mountain Development club, together with a university-based student research team, are tackling the issue by examining causes and effects of poor air quality in different areas of the State of Utah for the purpose of submitting a relevant bill for the adoption during 2019 Utah State Legislative session. The team is also undertaking immediate measures such as encouraging increased use of the public transit system by the university's students, faculty, and staff through an on-campus campaign during March–May 2018. In addition, members of the club are networking with other organizations within Utah and nationwide in an action toward implementation of similar commitments to transform local communities towards sustainable and resilient societies.

The Utah International Mountain Forum has been highlighted for the first time by the United Nations Secretary-General's Report on sustainable mountain development A/71/256, from 29 July 2016 for hosting the fourth international Women of the Mountains conference. This was indeed the acknowledgment from the United Nations, that the developed model successfully engages students in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As another highlight, the same report included the recommendations of the final document of the conference, which contribute to the main theme of this High Level Political Forum: "... (b) Successful implementation of target 6.6 could be achieved by supporting the vital role that women play in the protection of the environment and water sources, particularly as custodians of traditional knowledge that builds resilience and allows for adaptation to climate change; (c) With respect to target 15.1, women play a critical role in joint planning as promoters of innovation, development and cooperation for common benefit."

We would like to highlight another important advantage of this model: since 2006, Utah Valley University students, and non-traditional ones in particular, were able to raise funds elsewhere and contribute to the overall advocacy of the sustainable mountain development agenda of the United Nations in the State of Utah, North America and globally more than US $250,000. They did that as another example of the implementation of the United Nations Resolution "International Year of Mountains, 2002."

The developed model of engaged learning demonstrates that students are able, and must, play in the active implementation of the 2030 development agenda of the

United Nations. Student engaged learning initiative, if used by interested universities in rural and mountainous states worldwide, could provide similar benefits both to students and in particularly non-traditional, and in addressing sustainable and environmentally conscious community development strategies for rural and mountain areas and transforming them towards sustainable and resilient societies.

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Statement submitted by Shivi Development Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08701 (E) 110618

Please recycle

Statement

In a world where increasing globalization of economies, competing interests, and global governance structures impact the lives of a large part of humanity without its meaningful participation, community driven solutions to the problems and issues facing sustainable development remain a key approach and ray of hope. Shivi Development Society (SDS), therefore, places high premium on promoting a strong community involvement in the planning process, both as a value and as an approach, to arrive at pragmatic, community-rooted and thereby sustainable solutions to the felt and real needs of communities.

SDS believes, that sustainable development is integrated and indivisible, and has prioritized goal 3, goal 5 and goal 16 as an over-arching umbrella under which local communities set their own thematic priorities and ways to work on those areas.

Shivi Development Society's approach to promoting community propelled and owned solutions:

In order to empower local communities and encourage local solutions, SDS works with a large number of youth (both women and men) in Central India, broadly termed as human rights defenders. These defenders focus on local problems affecting their own and their communities' lives. The frameworks under which interventions are devised and undertaken, are many times macro and global, the solutions very often are local. In the process, best practices are generated and shared.

Goal 5: Gender Equality — Women's empowerment and gender justice is at the centre of all programmatic interventions. We consider women's empowerment vital to sustainable development and the realization of human rights for all. Under this programme domain, SDS focuses on the issue of women human rights defenders, which includes safety and security of women activists, survivors of violence, especially in the context of conflict situations; women in governance which also implies representation of women in political and administrative spaces, and women's livelihood focusing on skill building and financial inclusion.

Goal 3: Good Health & Well Being — SDS has experienced that good health and wellbeing is critical to the efforts towards sustainable development. The community groups have underlined the need for a renewed emphasis on the need for health awareness and services. Keeping in view this push from the community level, SDS is consolidating and expanding its interventions in the health sector by creating ownership among local communities about government funds for health and medical services.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions — SDS believes and has experienced that for any lasting development, it is important that there is peace in the society and local communities are able to secure justice in an environment of rule of law. Therefore, building local capacity for peace and facilitating access to justice is at the core of SDS programs, as it empowers people to exercise their rights, challenges discrimination and holds decision-makers accountable.

SDS invites those present here to join hands to build a sustainable future for my generation and generations to come, based on the principles of sharing and caring, and driven by sense of rights and responsibilities.

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Statement submitted by VAAGDHARA, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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18-08702 (E) 040618

Please recycle

Statement

Promoting Community Owned Solutions for sustainable development of Tribal Communities in Western India

Policies and actions that are framed following a top to bottom approach, sometimes fail to consider the real underlying issues of the problem and tend to address the superficial aspects of it. VAAGDHARA therefore emphasizes on promoting a strong community involvement in the planning process to come up with more pragmatic solutions to the felt needs. The Indigenous communities are a source of inspiration and they have multiple solutions for adapting to current and emerging challenges. It is always important to identify the best practices through the Participatory Approaches. The development of indigenous communities can never be solely in the hands of external stakeholders.

VAAGDHARA's approach in promoting community-owned solutions:

In order to promote the local solutions, VAAGDHARA has conducted a Tribal Sovereignty March reaching more than 10,000 individuals. The Sovereignty March focused on identifying the best practices through the participatory approach involving people from different age groups and backgrounds. The best practices which were identified through the process include the following:

Promotion of traditional farming practices — 'Farming practices that are eco-friendly, and sustainable in nature, acknowledge the traditional knowledge and wisdom, aim at curbing/totally ceasing the use of chemical fertilizers, and promote soil conservation. VAAGDHARA promotes Nutri-sensitive farming practices and Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems in order to deal with problems of malnutrition in the area and providing sustainable sources of farming. Tribal farmers adopting these approaches have had improved nutrition levels, especially among the women and children, have reduced dependency on the markets and have also enhanced their income levels through reduced input cost and increased productivity.

Establishing regular dialogue with the community through V-Chopal — To increase the knowledge and awareness among the community on the SDGs, VAAGDHARA has evolved an indigenous learning platform i.e. V-Chopal, for a regular two-way dialogue, where different development issues are discussed and the community members participate in the same. We believe, that an informed community is always more likely to assert its rights. In this platform, various strategies are discussed to achieve SDGs and the community is also provided with the solutions to their problems, which further provides them with a sustainable path of development.

Developing leaders within the community — In order to develop the leaders, VAAGDHARA is investing in building the capacities of youth, Community Leaders and Community Based Organizations, so that they can demand their entitlements and start the journey towards development. Awareness about schemes, programmes and rights can help the community explore its ultimate power for development of its upcoming generations.

VAAGDHARA and the SDGs:

To achieve the sustainable and equitable development for the indigenous communities, the organization has adopted the above-identified best practices and is making efforts to reach a large number of indigenous families in the Western part of India to promote these local solutions and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. There is a need to engage communities everywhere to make the United Nations 'Global Goals their local goals' and develop a sense of ownership and responsibility among communities.

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Statement submitted by World Family Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Please recycle

Statement

No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to transform cities and human settlements into inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable with strong communities

Humankind has achieved unprecedented social and economic progress over the past several decades. However, the progress has been uneven. Everywhere some individuals and groups confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in economic, social and political life, leaving them behind. The focus of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the core aspiration of the World Family Summit 2017 is to highlight the inclusion of the family in the process of development with No Family Left Behind.

By 2050, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century's most transformative trends. Populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, and this poses to governments and to families massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety and natural resources, among others.

The World Family Organization in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the CIFAL Global Network, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development, the United Nations ECOSOC Office for Support and Coordination, the United Nations NGO Branch, the United Arab Emirates Family Development Foundation, governments and civil society members numbering 167 participants from 72 countries gathered in the World Family Summit 2017, 14–15 December in the Emirates Hall at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, working on the theme: No Family Left Behind: Families and Local Authorities working together to transform cities and human settlements into inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable with strong communities, Leaving No Family Behind.

In Celebration of the World Family Organization 70th Anniversary, the focus of the World Family Summit 2017 was on the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", and SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" emphasizing that its implementation at the local level and in the family is an exceptional opportunity to achieve better integration between communities' needs and family-friendly public policy development, leading to a renewed hope, harmony, social coherence and economic growth, while ensuring inclusion and sustainability.

The World Family Summit 2017 successfully concluded its agenda and participants unanimously approved the Geneva Declaration which recommends the consideration of the following family-related issues as the main topics for mainstreaming actions at national, regional and especially at local levels:

- Integrate family focused perspective into the implementation of SDG11 and SDG12 to ensure that policy making and service delivery are family cantered.
- Promote implementation of the New Urban Agenda approved by member states at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) n Quito in October 2016 that reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing and

localizing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner with the participation of all relevant actors.

- Advocate for the development of national frameworks for sustainable cities and strong communities ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns at the local level with sectoral development plans.
- Encourage local governments, communities and families to work together in a participatory approach at local level, promoting civic engagement to stimulate a sense of belonging and ownership among all people and reaching to policies that prioritize safe inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces that are friendly to the families.
- Foster social cohesion, cultural expressions and political participation, and promote inclusion and safety in peaceful and diverse societies, where the needs of all inhabitant are met, recognizing the specific needs of families in vulnerable situations.
- Advocate for achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls by ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision making.
- Promote for well-planned urbanization, including high productivity, competitiveness and innovation, by ensuring the creation of decent jobs and equal access for all to economic and productive resources and opportunities.
- Readdress the way local authorities plan, finance, develop, govern and manage cities and human settlements, recognizing sustainable urban development as essential to the achievement of sustainable development and prosperity for all.
- Bring all generations together through inclusive urban planning by promoting intergenerational housing arrangements and spaces where generations can interact, dialogue and cooperate.
- Raise families' awareness through continued information, education and communication campaigns using multiple channels including social media to promote for more sustainable practices of consumption since the family's daily practices, behaviour and lifestyles are transmitted from generations to generations.
- Encourage families to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability in the family daily life including practices on family urban agriculture.
- Promote for equitable and affordable access to sustainable basic physical and social infrastructure for all, without discrimination, including affordable serviced land, housing, modern and renewable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation, safe, nutritious and adequate food, waste disposal, sustainable mobility, health care and family planning, education, culture, information and communications technologies.
- Ensure that provided services at local level are responsive to the rights and needs of women, children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, migrants, indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, and to those in vulnerable situations.
- Promote community support projects that distribute food collected from restaurants (waste) to needy families.
- Encourage the generation and use of renewable and affordable energy as well as sustainable and efficient transport infrastructure and services, achieving the benefits of connectivity and reducing the financial, environmental and public

health costs of inefficient mobility, congestion, air pollution, urban hat island effects and noise.

- Promote age- and gender-responsive planning and investment for sustainable, safe and accessible urban mobility for all and resource-efficient transport systems for passengers and freight, effectively linking people, places, goods, services and economic opportunities.
- Advocate for protecting, conserving, restoring and promoting the city's ecosystem, water, natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Advocate for public private partnerships (PPP) and public CSOs partnership as an essential strategy for the implementation of national, regional and local level programs to achieve the SDGs.
- Encourage collaboration with the private sector and local authorities to develop and implement holistic water strategies that are socially equitable, sustainable and economically beneficial while protecting water ecosystems for current and future generations.
- Advocate for access to water and sanitation by addressing the impacts of company and supply chain operations on local water supplies and supporting stakeholders to deliver clean water and sanitation.
- Introduce the concepts of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals on the local level strategic and budgetary plans to implement the targeted actions as an effective response to family needs transforming cities and human settlements into prosperous, inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and strong communities, LEAVING NO FAMILY BEHIND.

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Statement submitted by World Youth Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08705 (E) 120618

Please recycle

Statement

The World Youth Alliance (WYA) is a global coalition of young people promoting the dignity of the human person in policy and culture and building solidarity between young people worldwide.

Every human being has human dignity. Therefore, as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, we should "act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood" (Art. 1). It is the intrinsic worth of the human person that provides the basis on which to find policies and laws that create conditions under which human beings can flourish.

Sustainable and resilient societies are a measure of development, and development must be person-centered. This requires respect for human dignity, which is at the foundation of the three pillars of development: economic development, social development, and environmental protection. Development must "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

SDG 15 reflects this commitment, through its emphasis on sustainable management of forests in order to combat desertification, land degradation and bio-diversity loss. SDG 6, with its emphasis on water and sanitation, is a key component of social and economic development. The Sustainable Energy for All project will help achieve SDG 7 through access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy. The creation of sustainable societies through good stewardship of natural resources, sustainable energy, access to water and sanitation is a practical way to ensure respect for human dignity.

All these efforts rely on the greatest resource we have: people. Human beings possess the creativity and skill to be problem-solvers. Education ensures that they can develop their skills and contribute to their communities; it ensures that everyone has equal opportunities and the ability to take advantage of those opportunities.

Quality education must be available to all on an equal basis, should flow from an authentic understanding of the human person and foster respect for self and others in solidarity. Young people who understand human dignity are able to make personally responsible decisions and contribute to their communities including treating others with respect. This type of communication fosters sustainable development within communities.

The World Youth Alliance has created a curriculum that supports children in all aspects of their studies through a focus on self-understanding and personal development. The Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC) educates children about human dignity and that every human has it and should therefore be respected and upheld. It shows children that they have the potential to be excellent, develop and use gifts for common good. HDC is culturally sensitive and seeing as it targets children from vast backgrounds it is important for the curriculum to appeal to all. This type of education prepares children to use their gifts to achieve authentic development.

WYA believes that through these efforts we can build sustainable and resilient societies founded on respect for human dignity. We ask the Member States to ensure that all development efforts are grounded in this dignity, and we are ready to help.

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Statement submitted by Yakutia — Our Opinion, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

For the successful implementation of SDGs at the local level, it is necessary to ensure participation of local communities in decision-making process.

Developed countries are most successful in achieving SDGs. However, in developing and transitional countries, such as Russia and other post-Soviet countries, the situation is complex.

Effective participation of citizens in management of state affairs in such countries is difficult, because they are dominated by corruption, irresponsibility and formalism.

The constitutional norm that people are only source of power, according to which people exercise their power through elections and state bodies, is declarative. Activities of State bodies and Parliament of Russia are subordinated to selfish interests of the minority — corrupt officials and oligarchs.

Decision-making without taking into account the population's interests is particularly negatively reflected in remote and northern regions.

Let's present some actual problems with example of Yakutsk town, the capital of the Republic Sakha (Yakutia). Decision-making in Yakutsk is based on corruption, irresponsibility and formalism.

A number of acute problems remain unsolved in Yakutsk:

1) The lack of clean drinking water due to the refusal of the authorities to build a water treatment plant.

2) The possibility of catastrophic collapse of buildings due to melting permafrost and the authorities' refusal to conduct fortification works.

3) The possibility of construction of environmentally hazardous industrial objects on the Lena River near Yakutsk without taking into account population's position.

On the first issue (lack of clean drinking water) a paradoxical situation arose: Yakutsk's population lives on one of the world's largest Lena River, but cannot drink clean water from a tap. People are forced to drink polluted water or buy water from entrepreneurs at commercial prices. This causes an increase in diseases of kidney, gastrointestinal tract and other internal organs.

The second issue (catastrophic collapse of buildings) is associated with global warming and construction features in Yakutia. The foundations of most buildings are piles installed in permafrost. Melting permafrost soils causes the loss of strength of buildings (bearing capacity of piles). It requires carrying out of strengthening works and water disposal.

Melting permafrost soils against the background of the possibility of earthquakes in Yakutia can lead to the catastrophic collapse of buildings and mass death of people.

These two issues can be solved by spending funds on construction of a water treatment plant, carrying out work to strengthen buildings and water disposal. However, the priorities of local authorities in expenditure of public budget funds contradict the population's interests.

Transition from global to local problem solving and successful integration of local communities into the decision-making process have a number of problems and requires intensification of international community efforts.

Many problems are at the junction of three aspects: economic, social and environmental. These components are at the heart of the Concept of Sustainable Development and are best revealed in seventeen SDGs.

Therefore, the best way to solve problems at the local level is through:

- progressive implementation of the concept of Sustainable Development;
- effective participation of local communities in decision-making processes.